



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Wednesday, May 23, 2007

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at 3:45 p.m., at the Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Jim Holley
Mohamed Okdie
Willie Hampton **(ABS)**
Arthur Blackwell II
Erminia Ramirez

Department Personnel Present

AC Ralph Godbee
AC Robert Dunlap
2nd DC Tina Tolliver
Lt. Charles Wilson
Lt. Linda Vertin
Lt. Steven Walton
Sgt. Rodney Cox
Sgt. Romel Alexander
Sgt. Alan Quinn

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Investigator
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
Leslie J. Griffin, Community Relations Coordinator
PO Kent Cooper **(ABS)**

OTHERS

Ron Scott
Sandra Hines
Juanita Newton
Lawanda Hail-Griffin
Jeffery Nzoma
Trish Cunningham
Janice Suell

RECORDERS

Terence Bell
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Holley called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:45 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Wednesday, May 23, 2007

MOTION: **Comm. Blackwell** made the motion to approve the Agenda.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Thursday, May 17, 2007

MOTION: **Comm. Okdie** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: **Comm. Blackwell** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. BOPC OFFICER'S REPORT

1. SECRETARY'S REPORT

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
2007 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	12	606
		48% decrease
2006 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	34	499
		18% Increase

- The Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) closed a total of 93 cases for the month of April.
- The Office of the Chief Investigator submitted 3 cases to the Chief's Office for the month of April.
- The Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of 2,014 active investigations, of which 606 of those are for 2007.

TOTAL WEEKLY ALLEGATIONS

ARREST	1
DEMEANOR	5
FORCE	0
ENTRY	0
HARASSMENT	2
PROCEDURE	9
PROPERTY	0
SEARCH	0
SERVICE	5

TOTAL 22

COMMANDS

UNKNOWN	2
COMM/OPS	1
SW. DIST	0
CENT. DIST	0
EAST. DIST	2
WEST. DIST.	1
NW DIST.	4
TACTICAL	0
NARCOTICS	0
INTER. AFFAIRS	1
DOM. VIOLENCE	1
NE. DIST	0

TOTAL 12

5. REPORT/PRESENTATION-CHIEF OF POLICE

May 23, 2007

Volume 3, Issue 20

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS



Narcotics/Gang Enforcement

During the period of May 14, 2007 through May 20, 2007, **Narcotics/Gang Enforcement executed 28 search warrants and 47 street enforcement actions** within the boundaries of the city of Detroit, resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- **55 Felony arrests**
- **96 Misdemeanor arrests**
- **13 Juveniles detained**
- **113.70 grams of cocaine, 83.8 grams of heroin, 92,516.80 grams of marijuana and 81,316 pills with a total street value:**
- **\$ 1,379,547.20**
- **\$ 29,514.00 in U.S. Currency**

Confiscated:

- **18 Handguns**

Northwestern District

On May 17th, officers of the Northwestern District were flagged down by a victim of carjacking in the area of West Warren and Rosemont. The suspect was apprehended and subsequently **charged with Unlawful Driving Away Auto, Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property, Fleeing and Eluding, Motor Vehicle Advisory and Habitual 2nd.**



"BUILDING A SAFER DETROIT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS"

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.



Engaging the Community

ATTENTION

Citizens wishing to make a police report may do so at the Districts in the city of Detroit. Citizens may also utilize the following District Sub-Stations to make reports.

Location	Hours of Operation	Telephone
2151 E. Jefferson	24 Hours	596-6400
7737 Kercheval	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	852-4778
13206 E. Jefferson	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	852-5759
19810 Grand River	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	935-5322
13530 Lesure	8 a.m.-8 p.m.	596-5300
12000 Livernois	24 Hours	237-2555

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Special points of interest:

- **Next meeting:**

Thursday, May 31, 2007

@ 3:00 P.M.

**DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT
1300 BEAUBIEN ST., SUITE 328A
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226**

Police / Community Intervention

MAY 23, 2007



NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

Through the diligent efforts of the Northeastern District Investigative Operations, on May 14th, a suspect was charged with Robbery Armed and Habitual 4th, for the robbery of a store merchant in the 2000 block of Nevada.

EASTERN DISTRICT

On May 16th, officers of the Eastern District conducted an investigation of a shooting in the 5700 block of Maryland. Upon obtaining the identity of the suspect, the officers were able to apprehend the suspect, and was later charged with Assault with intent to (1) Murder (2) Great Bodily Harm (3) Felon with Firearm (4) Felonious Assault (5) Felony Firearm and (6) Habitual 3rd.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On May 16th, officers of the Eastern District responded to a "Felonious Assault" call in the 12000 block of Gratiot, which later resulted in an arrest. Subsequent to the investigation of this case conducted by members of Domestic Violence, the subject was charged with 2-counts of Felonious Assault and Domestic Violence.



CENTRAL DISTRICT

On May 14th, officers assigned to the Eastern District responded to a "Breaking and Entering of a Business" in the 1200 block of Washington Blvd. Subsequent to the investigation, officers upon executing a search warrant, made three arrests and recovered several of the stolen items. Due to the officers efforts, all three subjects were charged with Breaking and Entering.



AC Godbee introduced AC Dunlap of Operations Portfolio.

AC Dunlap introduced his staff and Lt. Linda Vertin of Homicide. The presentation will be presented by Homicide.

(SEE ATTACHMENT)

Chairperson Holley asked how many unsolved case there are.

Lt. Vertin stated she doesn't have that number right now, but indicated they have a 55% closer rate; and homicides have decreased by 20% compared to last year. There are a number of cases that go unsolved, but there is a cold case unit that is reviewing those cases in which several cases have been closed.

Comm. Blackwell asked were there any statistics on the number of homicides that consist of marital status.

Lt. Vertin stated that 40% are acquainted, and the other 60% are unable to be determined because of the closure rate. They haven't had a chance to talk to those individuals and they are unknown. Last year, 7% of the homicides were domestic related.

Comm. Blackwell asked is that counted in the acquainted number.

Lt. Vertin stated yes.

Comm. Blackwell stated in terms of random violence, you think of car jacking or armed robbery. When you think about domestic violence and someone getting killed, it is different than someone who is walking down the street or driving in a car and being killed. An image of Detroit has been portrayed as an unsafe City. Cities like Miami, New York, Chicago, Orlando, which have a large tourism populations, have more random violence than Detroit and they aren't portrayed the same. He wonders how the department is working with the Mayor's office to get that message out. If someone gets killed inside of their own home by an acquaintance, there is very little that a department can do.

Lt. Vertin stated that 22% of all the homicides were random. Most of the homicides are drug-related.

AC Godbee stated the department is very proud of Cmdr. Tolbert who is away attending the FBI Academy, if he were here, he would be delivering the presentation along with Lt. Vertin. To elaborate on your point, the Lieutenant referenced 40% were acquaintances that they know of, that is significant. It is not as random as the media may have people to believe. AC Dunlap has actively spoken on this issue and it gives the public some confidence when they see someone in uniform.

AC Dunlap stated when the department did an analysis of the City's homicides, 70% of narcotics had some type of drug nexus to it. When you factor that in with the domestic violence issue, the percentage of random violence will be much less than previously stated. One of the challenges they faced with what is considered random, is there are not a lot of leads to go on. As they discovered other background information, they found out that the victims had some previous dealings with the law. Detroit does have less random violence than the cities afore mentioned. There is a very small probability that you will be a random victim if you don't fall into certain categories.

Comm. Blackwell stated it always amazes him when the FBI talks about the most dangerous cities and crime statistics. How they categorize a particular crime and how it is reported in Detroit versus what is not being reported in other cities is always different. For many years, Atlanta had the same number of high homicides and was still able to get the Super Bowl, and the Olympics. How is their emphasis on safety different than Detroit. Orlando was once known to be dangerous for tourism, but now it continues to be the driving force of that state. He just thinks the department needs to involve its community leaders in helping with the public relations of the City. The perception on how people look at Detroit is what bothers him. He would love to be involved with the public relation aspect, as it relates to the City.

AC Dunlap stated in 2006, Orlando had a 120% increase in homicides, and you wouldn't know that just by traveling there. He states the Homicide Unit is outstanding and Lt. Vertin doesn't do enough to commend herself and the team. As of this year, less than 5% falls into random violence.

Lt. Vertin stated the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) is one of the biggest challenges they have in homicide when they are being solved in 15 minutes on television.

Comm. Blackwell stated there is a web site called "Protecting the Rat" for those people who go into the witness protection program or plea-bargain. Plea-bargain is public record so this person puts them on the web site. The department says it is legal and now they have to give them new identities.

AC Godbee stated the Homicide Section developed a bereavement package for the families. Once it is in full production that information would help them to understand the process of such as retrieving items, going through probate, or assigning a contact person of that family.

Comm. Ramirez stated some of the complaints that come to OCI concern detectives not following up with phone calls, and witnesses not being interviewed.

Lt. Vertin stated she would do a follow up on that.

Comm. Ramirez stated they are mostly complaining about not getting their calls returned, what's the status of their case, and the rudeness. She asked what kind of phone system are they using.

Lt. Vertin stated most of the time the officers are out on the street doing investigations and it goes into voicemail. Voicemails are usually checked everyday and if a citizen calls the desk, they will notify her or her assistant.

Comm. Okdie stated in, the program 48 Hours, the department has displayed great professionalism; and he is very proud of the job that they do.

Lt. Vertin stated thank you, and she will follow up on those phone calls. Some of those problems are spelled out in the bereavement package.

Comm. Ramirez asked could the Board get a copy of that package before it goes out to the public.

Lt. Vertin stated yes, as soon as it is finalized.

Chairperson Holley stated one of the concerns is the parents want their family members to be treated fairly, no matter what they were involved in.

Lt. Vertin stated a homicide of any person is horrendous and it doesn't matter what their lifestyle consisted of. All of the detectives will treat the families with respect.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

(Comm. Blackwell exit the meeting)

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 31, 2007 @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien Rm. 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

J. Newton stated she would like to have the power point be provided to the Community Relation Council for their citywide meeting.

Chairperson Holley stated that is an excellent idea.

J. Newton stated she would also like to have it for the senior citizen workshop in September. The Budget for the Police Department must be into City Council by Friday. She thanked Sgt. Merkison for organizing the cleanup along with the AC, DC, and Commanders at Marquette Park.

S. Hines stated a lot of citizens are discouraged about what is going on in the City and she running for a seat on the Detroit Public School Board. These meetings (Board of Police Commissioners) are really for the Police Officers and not the community. The word needs to get out and get the community involved in these forums. The attendance of the Police Commissioners has to get better at these meetings.

Chairperson Holley stated to Ms. Hines she has shown that something can be done by participating in the process.

S. Hines stated she is only one person and more people have to get involved.

R. Scott stated he would like to follow up with the motion that was filed regarding the Consent Decrees. The City stated that certain items were not specific enough and they did not mandate implementation. The City didn't agree on Lethal Force, Condition of Confinement and Witness Detention; they never agreed that it happened. If it didn't happen then, are they living in a fantasyland? There needs to be a way to resolve this issue, and if they go back to court lets go together. He stated to AC Godbee it was not leaked by the press, but was gotten after it had been filed.

Chairperson Holley stated to AC Godbee to get an assessment on the re-districting and on the Consent Decree.

R. Scott stated there ought to be a working body that involves the community as well.

Chairperson Holley stated for Mr. Scott to put it in writing and give it to the Board.

J. Suell asked AC Godbee to speak on the situation with the City bus issue.

Chairperson Holley asked is City Council taking that up in a special meeting.

AC Godbee stated he isn't sure.

Chairperson Holley stated you can take that question to City Council in the morning. He asked AC Godbee why the department doesn't want to patrol the buses.

AC Godbee stated its not that the department doesn't want to patrol the buses, but manpower prohibits them from doing it at this time. It will restrict the department movement.

Chairperson Holley asked even if you bring new people on.

AC Godbee stated yes. The Sheriffs have indicated that they have the manpower to do it now.

Chairperson Holley stated is that why you want to give it to them.

AC Godbee stated yes.

J. Suell asked didn't the Chief hire 200 more officers.

AC Godbee stated no ma'am. It was proposed in the new Budget and they are waiting on approval. They are requesting to hire those officers. Ninety-four of those positions need to be filled now. The remaining 106 will be above the level that they are currently at.

J. Suell asked how many positions are for those who are coming back.

AC Godbee stated that has to be contemplated and that they have made provision for all of those officers to return. The last group of the academy should be finished around June. They have anticipated going forward to have a mixed class in late June with new hires pending approval of the Budget.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb